

BOOK REVIEW

GROUNDWATER/SURFACE WATER ECOTONES: BIOLOGICAL AND HYDROLOGICAL INTERACTIONS AND MANAGEMENT OPTIONS edited by Janine Gibert, Jacques Mathieu and Fred Fournier, UNESCO and Cambridge University Press 1997. No. of pages: xiii + 246. Price: £65.00. ISBN 0 521 57254 1 (hardback).

This publication brings together an impressive collection of articles on groundwater/surface water ecotones and is essentially a proceedings volume from a conference with the same title, held in Lyon in July 1993. This conference represented a first opportunity to report work carried out under the auspices of the joint UNESCO/MAB/International Hydrological Programme on the role of land/inland water ecotones in landscape management and restoration, launched in January 1991.

The book divides the 29 articles into three main sections: (i) function of groundwater/surface water interfaces; (ii) malfunction of groundwater/surface water interfaces: causes

and methods of evaluation; and (iii) management and restoration of groundwater/surface water interfaces. There is also an interesting set of annexes reporting on workshop discussions, covering topics such as riparian vegetation and water quality improvement, modelling of flows at the interface and contributions that the concept of groundwater/surface water ecotones can bring to our understanding of river ecosystem functioning.

While there is a vast literature addressing land/water interfaces, interactions at the interface between groundwater and surface water are much more difficult to conceptualize and study. The great strengths of this collection of articles lie in the fact that it addresses this very important but neglected area of study, and that a wide geographical range of river systems is discussed.

FRANCINE M. R. HUGHES,
Department of Geography, University of Cambridge,